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Soviet paper says CIA breeds 'super mosquito'

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A Soviet literary newspaper said yesterday that the CIA is using radiation and genetic science to breed "super mosquitoes" for spreading disease in Afghanistan. In Washington, CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson denounced the report as "ridiculous Soviet propaganda."

The Literary Gazette, published weekly by the Soviet writers' union, said the mosquitoes were being developed in a laboratory at the Pakistani Medical Studies Center in Lahore, which it said is affiliated with the University of Maryland and funded and directed by the CIA.

A spokesman for the Pakistani embassy in London, Minister Qutubuddin Aziz, said the story was a "complete fabrication" and "utterly untrue." He said, "There are no such laboratories in Pakistan."

Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979 and an estimated 85,000 have remained to fight Moslem guerrillas.

The Literary Gazette said existence of the mosquitoes came to light when 30 persons near the laboratory were stricken by yellow fever carried by a breed of mosquito not usually found in the area.